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12 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: OD/CO

VIA: SE/CPP

SUBJECT: Daily Progress Report for Thursday, 11 September 1952

1. BQFIEND - () returned to Washington on 10 September from a trip to Egypt to confer with King Zog. At this conference arrangements were made for Zog to furnish a second team for use in Albania and other operational matters were discussed. The most important subject of the conversations was the meeting of Zog's emissaries with the Yugoslavs in Skoplje at the end of August. The Yugoslav spokesman received these emissaries in a very friendly manner, stated that the Yugoslavs would prefer to see the present Albanian regime overthrown by the Albanians themselves with Zog at their head but that in view of the present intolerable situation in Albania the Yugoslavs would be obliged to overthrow the regime themselves should Zog and the other Albanians lack the capability to do so. The Yugoslavs promised to send representatives to meet directly with Zog in the near future to discuss policy and operational details and indicated their friendly attitude toward Zog by stating that he and his family would always be welcome in Belgrade in the event they should find it desirable to leave Egypt.

() advises that an Italian source reports that Albanian refugees who arrived in Yugoslavia in early August reported a large scale firefight

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lasting three days in July between Nationalist and Government forces near Kruja. Aircraft and artillery supported the Government forces. Mehmet Shefju and a high-ranking Soviet officer were said to have been present. There were many dead and wounded on both sides before the Nationalists were forced to withdraw. (IN 34580)

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